



SCIENCE

FOR FAMILIES

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support science learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!

THIRD GRADE

What to expect:

In third grade, children learn about the natural and physical world around them while beginning to observe, experiment and share what they have learned. Third-graders will discover answers to questions such as, "What is typical weather in different parts of the world and during different times of year?", "How are organisms like plants and animals different?", "How are plants, animals and environments of the past similar or different from the ones of today?", "What happens to organisms when their environment changes?" and "How do forces on an object affect that object?"

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Organize and use data to predict what kind of weather will happen next.
- Develop an understanding of the similarities and differences in the life cycles of plants and animals.
- Understand inherited traits and how living things can adapt to their environment.
- Explain how differences in characteristics among members of the same species may provide advantages in finding mates, reproducing and survival.
- Plan and conduct investigations on the effects of forces on moving objects.
- Develop an understanding of how changes in the environment make an impact on organisms.
- Determine the cause and effect relationships of magnetic interactions.

What to do at home:

- Discuss what causes a swing or see-saw to move or come to a complete stop.
- Discuss the weather forecast each day, including temperature, wind and precipitation.
- Talk about the properties of a good shelter to use during severe weather.
- Take a nature walk and identify living things and how they are able to survive in their environment.
- Visit a zoo or farm and identify how the animals and their offspring are alike and different.
- Look for things a magnet will attract or stick to.



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and want to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to spark curiosity, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore the world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- Go outside and throw or kick a ball. Ask your child if it's possible to keep the ball moving without it stopping. Why or why not?
- Observe the weather outside during different seasons. What differences does your child notice between the seasons in temperature, clouds, rainfall, temperature, etc.?
- Ask your child if every kind of animal, or only some animals, could survive in your backyard or near where you live.

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Families can play a role in helping their children learn to be good communicators by encouraging them to add new words to their vocabulary, express themselves and be good listeners. As children's communication skills grow, they are able to learn new ideas, get along with others and develop positive relationships and a strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What food would be served at your favorite meal?
- How did you show kindness to someone today?
- What is your favorite outdoor activity to do with family or friends?

Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block for success in all school subjects and a critical skill that develops with time and practice. Encourage your child to read for pleasure, and be a good role model by reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help third-graders understand what they are reading.

BEFORE READING

- What made you pick this book?
- How is this book like another one you have read or a movie you have seen?
- What do you think the book will be about?

DURING READING

- What has happened so far in the story?
- What pictures do you see in your mind as you read?
- What words can I help you understand?

AFTER READING

- What was the most important event in the story? Why?
- What lesson do you think the author wants the reader to learn? What makes you think that?
- If you could give this book a different title, what would it be? Why?

Join the conversation!

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